

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 DODE-00 /045 W
-----028777 092140Z /65

R 091050Z SEP 77
FM AMEMASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8128
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3364

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TPHY, CE, SV
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON SOVIET OCEANOGRAPHIC RE-
SEARCH ACTIVITIES

1. SUMMARY. IF APPROPRIATE, REQUEST DEPARTMENT PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR BRIEFING SRI LANKAN OFFICIALS ON SOVIET OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN INDIAN OCEAN.END SUMMARY.

2. DURING DCM COURTESY CALL, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN SERVICE ARTHUR BASNAYAKE RAISED SUBJECT OF SOVIET RESEARCH VESSELS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. HE REFERRED TO NUMEROUS REQUESTS FROM THE SOVIETS FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, AND NOTED THAT THE US HAS NOT MADE SUCH A REQUEST FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS.

3. BASNAYAKE EXPRESSED TWO CONCERNS. FIRST, SRI LANKA WANTS TO MAINTAIN BALANCE BETWEEN THE BIG POWERS AND IS BECOMING CONCERNED ABOUT THE PREPONDERANCE OF SOVIET REQUESTS. SECOND,SRI LANKA DOES NOT HAVE THE SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITY TO EVALUATE OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH REQUESTS SO AS TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THOSE THAT ARE LEGITIMATE AND THOSE THAT ARE NOT. BASNAYAKE ASKED IF WE COULD PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION THAT WOULD ASSIST SRI
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LANKA IN EVALUATING RESEARCH REQUESTS. HE SAID THAT HE PREFERRED AN ORAL BRIEFING AND NOT DOCUMENTS.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WOULD BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF ANY FUTURE US OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIP VISITS TO INCREASE LEVEL OF SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDING OF SIMILAR SOVIET VESSELS CAPABILITIES.

ACCORDINGLY, OUR RESPONSE TO BASNAYAKE'S QUERY WAS POLITE
BUT NONCOMMITTAL.
WRIGGINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: TPHY, TOCY, PINR, CE, US, UR, XO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/15082c4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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